

Inside this edition of Plain and Valley



There's still time to enter to win \$15,000 right before Christmas! Turn to pages 14 & 15 for more details!

Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

December 2019 • Volume 12, Number 12



People travel a long way for a real, fresh Christmas tree

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

On a beautiful Saturday afternoon in early December, Aaron Hack cuts a Scots Pine Christmas tree for a customer, loads it on a sled, hops on his ski-doo and hauls it to a customer's vehicle.

Aaron operates the Christmas tree farm at Cornucopia Gardens, just south of Rocanville.

There are fewer Christmas tree farms than in the past, and Aaron says he has seen customers this year from as far away as Regina, who are willing to drive two hours for the experience of picking their own Christmas tree.

Often the whole family will come together and make an event of picking a Christmas tree, with the grandparents picking one tree for their home and the parents getting another for

their home.

"Everybody seems to enjoy it," he said. "The kids are really excited to be able to pick out a tree."

The tree farm at Rocanville is a real family opera-

tion. Dennis Hack started planting the Christmas trees—Scots Pine, White Spruce and Balsam Fir—in 2006. His daughter Heather Graham took on the trees as part of Cornucopia gardens,

and now her brother Aaron runs the Christmas tree side of the operation, while Heather uses some of the greenery for wreath making at Cornucopia gardens.

Continued on page 3



Aaron Hack cuts a Christmas tree, left, and hauls it out of the tree farm, above.

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People travel a long way for a real, fresh Christmas tree

Continued from front

Aaron says there is a lot of work to growing the trees.

The trees must be sheared each year, and it takes about 8-10 years from planting before the trees are ready to sell.

But he says he enjoys the tree business, enjoys the work, and especially enjoys seeing customers get just the tree they are looking for. Families come to pick out trees right up to Christmas.

The business has grown over the last few years. "The tree business has grown a lot," Heather says. "We've had people coming from farther away this year than ever before."

"People are also coming earlier—we had lots of people come in November because they know they last so long. The tree we have in the store we keep up until March. The fresh cut trees just last a lot longer."



Aaron says he would like to add to the tree farm, with a fire pit and sleigh rides to add to the experience when families come out to pick a tree.

"I've got lots of ideas for what we can add in the future," he says.

There are lots of benefits to real Christmas trees, according to the Prairie Christmas Tree Growers Association:

- Real Christmas trees, like other green plants, cycle carbon dioxide to oxygen
- All prairie Christmas trees are grown on family farms.
- Real Christmas trees are biodegradable and will eventually decompose to provide essential organic matter.
- Fresh Christmas trees that are properly care for lose few needles and will not support a flame.
- Evergreen trees are beautiful and fragrant.

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Honourable Warren Kaeding PAg
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On behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan and my assistant, Rick McIntyre, I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

The Holiday Season is a joyous time to gather with friends and family and to visit and reflect on the past year.

As we look forward to 2020, it is also time to give thanks for the many blessings we enjoy in Saskatchewan.

I wish you all the best for a safe and happy holiday season.

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Paralympian Krystal Shaw speaks at Moosomin Shrine Fundraiser

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Paralympian Krystal Shaw spoke at the Moosomin Shrine Club fundraiser on Friday, November 15.

She spoke about the difference Shriners Hospitals has made in her life.

Krystal was born 25 years ago in Vancouver. Weighing in at just 3 pounds, 9 ounces, she was delivered eight weeks early. Born with a hole in her stomach, Krystal's bladder and intestines were on the outside of her body, and her legs were crossed and folded over her stomach. The name for this condition is arthrogryposis multiplex congenita (AMC). The doctors' prognosis was grim at best.

During her first year of life, Krystal's parents researched the care provided at several medical locations, hoping that something could be done to help their daughter. Krystal had club feet and no muscle growing in her legs. Her hips were dislocated and one of her knees was bent at 90 degrees.

A colleague of Krystal's father mentioned Shriners Hospitals for Children, and Krystal made her first visit to Shriners Hospitals for Children when she was three and a half years old. Krystal underwent her first surgery at the age



\$2,000 for Shriners Hospitals

The Moosomin Shrine Club presented \$2,000 to the Shriners Hospitals for Children at their Happy Days Christmas Party. From left are Provincial Divan Bill Fitzsimmons, Paralympian Krystal Shaw who was a patient at the Shriners Hospitals for Children, Provincial Divan Malcolm Gutfried, Moosomin Shrine Club president Greg Gillespie, and Paul Deren, the Wawa Shrine Hospitals chair for Saskatchewan.

of five. She took her first steps at the age of six. One day when she was near the coffee table at home, she took a decisive look and began to take a step, all alone and without help.

These first steps happened because of an extraordinary health care system called Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Krystal began to swim competitively when she was nine. She did not plan to go far with this sport, as her main goal was to gain muscle and flexibility in her legs. Yet at age 12, she competed in her first international-level competition and won two silver medals. She had found her passion.

Krystal became part of the Saskatchewan team at age 14, and competed at the Canada Games where she won a bronze medal. When 15, she represented Canada at the World Championships in Brazil.

Then, disaster struck when she developed a blood clot in her leg. She thought her swimming career was over, as well

as a huge part of her life.

Krystal had surgery to remove the blood clot from her leg.

She has continued to push herself both physically and mentally. She has competed in the Para Pan Am games and in April she was off to Spain, and then to Lima, Peru in August. These games were the next steps leading up to the 2020 Paralympic Games in Tokyo.

Krystal told the crowd in Moosomin about her experience with Shriners Hospital for Children in Montreal.

After one surgery, she said, he life was changed.

"I returned to Montreal 12 weeks later to get the cast off," she told the crowd at the sold-out fundraiser. "My exact words I said to my mother when I saw my legs were, 'Look mom, I'm normal.' I learned how to give my mom a huge hug with my legs wrapped around her waist."

Continued on page 8

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It was a busy night in Esterhazy Thursday, Dec. 5 when the town held its Moonlight Madness event. Stores along Main Street were bustling, and there were a number of other events being held around the town that night, including live music at Whippetree Coffee, a member market at Anytime Fitness, and gift wrapping by members of the Bohemka gymnastics club as a fundraiser to go to Amsterdam in 2023.



Whippetree Coffee had live music offered by siblings Frank and Claire Berthelet.



Members of the Bohemka gymnastics club were wrapping presents during Moonlight Madness as a fundraiser to go to Amsterdam in 2023.

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Patron given 60 days to raise retainer

Patron writes letter to the Queen asking for his party to have its own justice system for members

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Canadian Nationalist Party leader Travis Patron asked for 60 days to get together a retainer for a lawyer when he appeared in court in Regina Monday, November 25.

Patron, who ran in the Souris-Moose Mountain riding in the recent federal election and finished last with 166 votes, is charged with aggravated assault, assault causing bodily harm, and breach of probation stemming from an alleged assault late in the night on November 2 in Regina that sent two women to hospital.

Also in court Monday, he asked for a relaxation of his court-ordered curfew, saying the curfew interfered with his "job" as a political candidate.

When his name was called in provincial court, Patron requested time to put together a retainer for a lawyer.

He requested 60 days to gather his retainer for a lawyer. Judge Marylyne Beaton pointed out that the adjournment he requested is significantly longer than that typically granted by the court.

When asked by the judge what type of work he does, Patron responded, "political candidate," and told the court he earns money as a political candidate.

The Crown didn't contest Patron's request for a 60-day adjournment, noting his charges are significant.

He was granted an adjournment to Jan. 20.

Curfew relaxation requested

Before leaving, he asked the court to amend a release condition pertaining to his curfew, putting his job forward as the reason for the needed change and telling the court the curfew is "causing me some problems."

The Crown agreed to allow for an exception for employment purposes.

According to the Regina Police Service, police were called shortly before 2:30 a.m. on Nov. 2 to the 1900 block of Victoria Avenue in Regina for a report that two women, aged 33 and 43, had been assaulted. The women were taken to hospital for treatment.

Police said the women and a man had spoken earlier that evening. It's alleged the man offered them rides home and that, when his offer was declined, the assaults occurred.

Police say they attempted to speak to Patron nearby shortly after the alleged assaults, but he refused to speak with them. They determined his identity and interviewed him later, after which he was charged.

One of the charges was for breach of probation stemming from a previous conviction. On March 7, Patron was ordered by a judge to keep the peace and be of good behavior as part of his probation conditions.

Letter to the Queen asks for parallel justice system for Patron's party

Patron's group has been banned from dozens of public venues for his hate speech and because of violent incidents his followers have allegedly been involved in.

Individuals wearing "Canadian Nationalist Party" hats and t-shirts were involved in two violent incidents in Ontario this year.

In one incident, individuals wearing "Canadian Nationalist Party" hats and t-shirts were involved in a brawl in the Eaton Centre in downtown Toronto during a Pride event in June.

Videos show the individuals in Canadian Nationalist Party gear attacking individuals in the Eaton Centre.

Supporters of the party were also involved in violent altercations at the pride parade in Hamilton on June 22.

Patron's group has been banned from public facilities from the Legion Hall in his home town of Redvers to Saskatoon City Hall, the University of Regina, the University of Toronto, the Toronto Public Library, the Metro Toronto Convention Centre to TCU Place in Saskatoon.

Patron wrote a letter to the Queen Thursday complaining that these bans violate his rights.

His letter begins:

"Your Majesty,

"I come to you today on behalf of the Canadian Nationalist Party with news that threatens the very well-being of our society and our ability to determine our political trajectory as a country. What we have observed and experienced in Canada as a federal political party indicates that our rights under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms are being actively suppressed by the current government. From the very inception of our party in 2017 up until the most recent 43rd Federal Election, our constituency has been prevented from assembling publicly and freely communicating our policies with Canadian voters at essentially every opportunity."

(Editor's note: Patron was allowed to participate in all three all-candidate debates organized by chambers of commerce in Souris-Moose Mountain, was allowed to print and mail election brochures, was allowed to set up billboards, and was given the same access to local media as all other candidates.)

Like many of Patron's missives, the letter to the Queen includes vague and unspecified threats: "As we have clearly stated from day 1, when diplomatic solutions are not available, those being censored have no choice but to resort to undiplomatic methods," and "Continued violation of our constitutional rights and self-determination will leave us no option other than pursuing avenues of change outside conventional democratic channels."

Despite a hate crime investigation against him by the



Travis Patron leaves court in Regina on Nov. 25. He is facing charges of aggravated assault, assault causing bodily harm and breach of probation as a result of an alleged assault that sent two women to hospital in Regina. He asked for a 60-day adjournment to raise a retainer for a lawyer, then wrote a letter to Queen Elizabeth claiming his party has been discriminated against and asking the Queen to allow his party to set up a parallel justice system for its membership to among other things "ease the burden of an already delayed court system."

RCMP, criminal charges, and widely reported brawls and attacks involving Nationalist Party supporters, Patron insists in his letter his group has done nothing wrong.

"To date, our constituency has initiated no violence, said nothing hateful, and done nothing illegal. Yet, from the very outset of this campaign in early 2017 to the end of the 43rd Federal Election we have experienced systemic discrimination."

Patron suggests the Queen set up a separate legal system for members of the Canadian Nationalist Party.

"Today, we are requesting your permission to establish an extrajudicial tribunal capable of settling criminal and civil liabilities on behalf of our membership. The intention of this extrajudicial organization would be to ease the burden of an already delayed court system, protect the rights of Canadians to a fair trial, and to uphold the rule of law."

"This extrajudicial tribunal would be responsible for settling criminal and civil liabilities of our membership and for upholding the constitution, the rule of law, and respect for the independence of the courts."

"Please consider this request seriously, your Majesty, as we are now living in a political environment where we



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"To date, our constituency has initiated no violence, said nothing hateful, and done nothing illegal," Patron wrote to the Queen, despite scenes like this of Canadian Nationalist Party supporters attacking individuals, a hate crime investigation by the RCMP against Patron, a criminal conviction and probation order against Patron and pending criminal charges against Patron for a serious assault that sent two women to hospital.

have essentially no method or avenue to advocate for our own self-determination."

Patron concludes the letter by telling Queen Elizabeth, who has no actual political power in Canada, that "Failure to respond will be considered yet another sign of unaccountable government."

Back in court in January

Patron will be back in Saskatchewan provincial court in January to face the assault charges stemming from the Regina incident.



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Where we choose to shop, where we spend our money makes all the difference.

Some people have their favorite chain stores they like to support, others go out of their way to support mom and pop stores, or buy what they can as locally as possible, from the Hutterites down the road or at the farmers market.

Where we choose to shop now makes more of a difference than ever.

There have always been options for people. They have always had the local option or the other option.

135 years ago, the pages of this newspaper advertised the local stores where people could buy their goods, but some chose to order everything from the Eaton's catalogue and pick up the parcels at the train station. (You could even buy a pre-fab house kit from the Eaton's catalogue back then.)

Eaton's and later Sears have long since been replaced by other competitors to local businesses—the big box stores in the cities and of course online shopping, the modern equivalent of the Eaton's Catalogue.

The trend toward online shopping is real, and is damaging for local stores that are so important to our communities. There is an article in this week's issue about the CFIB's 2019 National Retail Sector Survey, released last week, that shows more than half of Canadians have showroomed—gone to a local store



Kevin Weedmark

to check out a product and then ordered it online.

Where people decide to spend their money has a big impact on their communities, especially smaller communities, where every dollar spent locally is vitally important to the businesses in your community.

Those local businesses employ your friends and neighbors, pay property taxes to support your community, and support everything from fundraisers to your children's hockey team to the community recreation facilities that make your community great.

This month we're starting a campaign that we will run through the Christmas season to remind people how important it is to shop locally.

We're asking our readers to take the \$50 challenge! The idea is simple, and the numbers are amazing!

If every reader of the World-Spectator spends \$50 a week locally instead of in the city or online, that will inject \$31,000,000 into our local economy each year!

\$31 Million!

What's \$50 a week? It's a case of paper for your business bought locally rather than in the city.

It's one meal out in the local area, not in Brandon, Yorkton, or Regina. It's one piece of clothing bought in a local store and not online.

It's one less weekend trip to the city over the course of the year, with that weekend spent checking out something in the local area instead—the Sportsplex, the cross-country ski trails at Esterhazy or Rocanville, the Tri-Valley snowmobile trails, Assessippi, or the Moose Mountains—check out the Winter Fun Guide inside this week's paper to see some of the attractions you could explore in the local area.

The Dec. 2 paper also included a Christmas Gift Guide that was distributed to additional households as well as regular subscribers.

If every person who reads the Christmas Gift Guide spends \$50 a week locally instead of in the city or online, that will inject \$49,000,000 into our local economy each year!

Our monthly Plain and Valley publication goes to a huge area.

If every person in the area covered by Plain and Valley spends \$50 a week locally instead of in the city or online, that will inject \$169,000,000 into our local economy each year!

The future of your community is in your hands!

Take the \$50 challenge and support your community!

Paralympian Krystal Shaw speaks at Moosomin Shrine Fundraiser

Continued from page 5

My next few surgeries were to fix and straighten my toes by putting three inch pins into them.

The Shriner's Hospital was not like other hospitals. It was my home away from home and the doctors and staff were like my second family. My teachers, my physiotherapist Matt and on the left we have Mario he was the best nurse I could have ever asked for and on the right we have doctor Hambe (1:05??). The surgeon who made me walk but also the doctor I proved I could. Last but not least you the Shriner's the angels with the little red hats. Because of all of you I was able to find my passion. I was nine years old when my mother put me in swimming. I wasn't really planning on going far in this sport it was just to help me gain muscle and flexibility in my legs but by the age of 12 I was competing at the international level against

Canada, United States, and Mexico and I won two silver medals and so that would have been first Can Am with these pictures.

At this point on I knew I found my passion. At age 14 I made it on a Saskatchewan team and competed at the Canada games where I won a bronze medal. By age 15 I represented Canada at the World Championships in Brazil. I was torn. I lost a huge part of my life. But three years ago after being away from the sport for seven years. I have began my journey once again. Since I got back in I have been to two world series which were in the UK and Australia and at the beginning of this past April I competed at the Canadian trials for the team selection for 2019 ParaPanAm Games in Lima, Peru and I made the

team. As you can see here I succeeded at the games but this bronze medal was not easy. Three out of the four teams including us were disqualified. Later on it was announced that everyone except the United States were not disqualified but the United States decided to protest and if they won we would not be getting the bronze but as you can see they did not win and we took home the bronze.

I earned three more silver medals in the 100 meter and 50 meter freestyle and in the 100 meter back stroke.

So what's next for me? This year will be a busy one for me because this April the Canadian trials for the selection of Tokyo 2020 will finally be here and that is my dream.

Merry Christmas!



May your Christmas bloom with beauty and happiness!

Thank you for being such good friends.

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Merry Christmas!

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Merry Christmas to all of our customers and friends!



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MERRY Christmas EVERYONE

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hope it fills you with delight!

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Rendering of planned Kahkewistahaw Governance Centre

Kahkewistahaw plans new governance centre

BY SARAH PACIO

Chief Evan Taypotat announced in November that Kahkewistahaw First Nation will begin constructing a new Governance Centre next March. Initial renderings of the two-story complex were also released. The Governance Centre will be located on the reserve between the school and powwow grounds and it will take approximately 15 months to complete.

The purpose of the project is to provide a safe, modern work environment for employees from all departments. Council identified the need for a new building during discussions with program managers two years ago. "Like any good First Nation, a band office is the hub of the community," Chief Taypotat said. "Right now, the way our community is situated, we have all of our different departments in different buildings so there's no cohesion." He believes that centralization will help the First Nation reach its goals of improved teamwork. In addition to offices, there are also plans to include a cafeteria, post office, daycare, museum and fitness centre in the building.

Over the past two years, leaders diligently worked through proposals and carefully arranged financing for the new building. Now engineering and other site work is done and they are working closely with the construction company to finalize plans and ensure that jobs are given to band members from Kahkewistahaw and neighboring First Nations whenever possible.

The new building will cost \$12 million to \$15 million and will be funded by a loan from the First Nations Finance Authority, a department of the First Nations Financial Management Board. The non-profit organization requires clients to adhere to strict spending guidelines in order to receive certification and funding with low-interest rates for development projects. Chief Taypotat said the current council endorses ethical and transparent practices with yearly clean audits, so it is easy for them to comply with the necessary regulations.

Council is also committed to providing good things for band members and is looking forward to providing a state of the art building for their people. "One of the things with First Nations people is that we've always gotten the least; we don't have nice things. The government has always given us the bare minimum to get by, but under the current council I sit with, we said our people are no longer going to accept that," the chief explained. He hopes that employees will enjoy coming to work at the new building and feel motivated to do their jobs well.

Constructing a new band office is just one way that Kahkewistahaw First Nation is striving to create stability for its people. They recently purchased a restaurant in the Qu'Appelle Valley and are preparing to develop land in Saskatoon. "Going forth, we want to make sure that our businesses that we develop generate revenue, and if they generate revenue into jobs, our

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Above: People singing carols after the trees on Ellice Street are lit up by Mayor Daryl Fingas.

Right: Roasting wieners at the fire hall.



Left: Vendors selling crafts inside the Hope Congregational Church.

ROCANVILLE LIGHT-UP NIGHT

The town of Rocanville held its light-up night Thursday, Dec. 5. Stores were open late, and there were a number of other activities, including kids crafts at the library that evening, a bonfire and weiner roast at the fire hall, and some pop-up vendors. Mayor Daryl Fingas officially lit the spruce trees on Ellice Street, marking the start of the Christmas season.



Left: Owen Calloway, getting some help from his mom with Christmas crafts at the library



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Riding with Santa

There were lots of people on the hayride with Santa during Moosomin's Moonlight Madness on Wednesday. It was a busy night for the local businesses. Below is Borderland Co-op's mascot Cooper, along with the Grinch, making rounds during the evening.



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Farewell to column writing

My first newspaper column appeared in the Moosomin World-Spectator in 1992.

It was awful!

It was some painfully long 'essay' about the political ramifications of the Meech Lake Accord that was more suitable for a paper shredder than a newspaper.

My ever-patient first editor, Kevin Weedmark, read the column and politely commented, "It sounds more like a political science textbook."

He was absolutely right.

From that time on, I have vowed NEVER to have any of my columns sound like textbooks.

Sometimes I have gone to the other extreme and made them sound more like my diary.

That was a better option for me than to have that 'textbook' comment uttered ever again.

So here I sit, writing my last column: #549.

I started numbering them when we moved back to Saskatchewan in 1999.

At that time, I reached out to local newspaper editors who eagerly supported me.

A few years later, the Regina Leader Post picked up the column and decided 'Rural Roots' would be a suitable name.

In my rough estimation, I have written a total of about 700 columns in my 26 years as a journalist, about 500 of them under the title 'Rural Roots'. That's about half-a-million words.

I'm not really sure what I could possibly have had to say that accounted for 500,000 words?

My horse, my kids and my garden accounted for a good number of those words, with topics like rural living and supporting our communities taking up another 100,000



Cristalee Froese

or so.

The columns I am most proud of are those that promoted the idea of inclusion, kindness and compassion.

On September 18, 2015, I wrote a column about the Bible's golden rule: treating others as we ourselves would want to be treated. It went like this:

"If I had the good fortune of washing up onto some shore, I'd want to be greeted with open arms. I'd want people to come running to me to take my seaskick child ashore, to give my family drinking water and to hold me while I wept in despair at having to leave everything I knew behind.

"I'd want someone, anyone, to help me get the foundation of my life set up again. I wouldn't ask for much. Simply give me a safe place to live with my family, show us what we can do to pay our way and let us rebuild, knowing that we are together and that we won't be beaten, brutalized or bombed.

"And then, as an ultimate act of human-hood, I'd like it if my saviors would embrace me tightly and whisper into my ear, 'Don't worry, I am an immigrant too. My grandparents came here with nothing as well, and if the truth be known, many of us are immigrants. Know that I will respect you, honour you and cherish you, for you are me and I am you—we are one.'

I am leaving column writing behind because life has taken me in other directions as an author and founder of the More Joy Movement.

However, this time with all of you over all of these years will always be precious to me.

I thank each and every one of you for reading and for coming along with me on my journey.

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Local producers win awards at Agribition

Two local farms were the winners of awards at Canadian Western Agribition (CWA) held from Nov. 30 to Dec. 5 in Regina.

Hebert Livestock Ventures—Kyle and Crystal Hebert—were the winner of the award for Grand Champion Pen of Bred Replacement Heifers. Furze Farms (Teresa and Jo Walker) also won a number of awards for their sheep.

“My husband Kyle, myself and our family have been exhibiting bred replacement females for most of the past 10 years to showcase what we have to offer for sale at home,” says Crystal Hebert with Hebert Livestock Ventures.

“We also utilize the four days at Canadian Western Agribition to network with cattlemen, gather new information and share our setbacks and successes in hopes to help others enhance their operation and bring new ideas back to improve what we do at home.

“Our approach is to be progressive, trying different types of fall and winter feeding practices, for example, to become more efficient. Or doing certain things to get more females pregnant in a short window of time. We all know in this industry we get paid per pound, however we believe that each pound we sell off our ranch is going to be the best quality we can get from our cows.

“At the CWA commercial cattle show this year there was 65 open replacement heifers on offer and 200 bred replacement females. We brought two pens of five bred replacement heifers and did very well, placing first in both our classes and the one pen won grand champion pen of bred replacement heifers which we are very honored to win, as the quality up at CWA was sensational.

“Our eight-year-old son, Hunter, was helping us bring the heifers through the show and had a hard time containing his excitement!

“He and Kruz, six, both share a passion for the cattle and were ecstatic to win such an award. It’s times like these that it is unclear what makes you happier—the pride you have in your work or the feeling you get seeing your children so happy!

“We had two new buyers this year, and also had previous customers bidding—they plan to come to the ranch this week to purchase breeds. The repeat buyers is something we are very proud to have as it shows that what we are producing will work in different cow herds.”

Crystal says that her and Kyle own and operate the ranch, while Louis and Karen (Kyle’s parents) have partial ownership and help with watching the grandkids and helping fill in on big projects when they need extra help.”

Teresa and Jo Walker with Furze Farms won a number of awards for their sheep operation near Fairlight, including the following:

- Dorset ewe lamb: First in class and went on to be Champion Ewe (Any Other Breed).
- Dorset ram lamb: First in class and went on to be Reserve Champion Ram (Any Other Breed). This 2019 born ram lamb was the highest selling ram lamb in the Agribition sale.
- Suffolk yearling ram: First in class and went on to be Reserve Champion Suffolk ram.
- Pen of commercial ewe lambs: First in class and went on to be Reserve Champion pen of ewes.
- Six-year-old Kerri-Ann Walker (their granddaughter) won for first place junior ewe lamb.

Continued on page 17



Above: Kyle and Crystal Hebert and their children Hunter and Kruz with their awards for Grand Champion Pen of Bred Replacement Heifers.

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Above: Kyle and Crystal Hebert and their children Hunter and Kruz with their awards for Grand Champion Pen of Bred Replacement Heifers.



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Above: Jo Walker holding the Grand Champion Ewe. At right is Kerri-Ann Walker holding the banner along with Bethan Lewis.

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December 31



Light-up night kicks off Christmas in Elkhorn



A family photo with Santa Claus at the Elkhorn Elks annual Christmas movie.



A street hockey game with members of the Elkhorn C-Hawks taking on all contenders.

BY ED JAMES
The light fluffy snow that fell on the Village of Elkhorn for its annual Christmas Light Up night on Saturday, Nov. 30 was the perfect touch to get everyone in the holiday spirit. Add to this scene the colorful lights in the shop windows and lamp poles, and the magic of the Christmas season was in the air.

The annual community event offered a variety of events for young and old and whatever your budget. The Legion hall is where the events started off with a number of vendors from around the area setting up in the morning with a variety of colorful and seasonal arts and crafts along with homemade baking and candy.

A few of the local community groups did a booming business with a number of ticket draws. Wenda Paton, the Elkhorn Auto Museum manager, was set up selling a colorful calendar of antique vehicles in the museum's collection with several of the cars in locations around the village. If you needed a pick-me-up from the shopping, the Ladies Auxiliary of the Elkhorn Royal Canadian Legion offered a light lunch that included soups and fresh baked pies and cakes.

Down the street at the senior drop-in centre, where there was a chili cookoff going on, the public was invited to come in and try the different types of chili and vote on their favorites. When the dust from the chili powder settled, the public vote had Kristina Walker in first place, Darryl Twigg, in second and Brad McGrath in third place.

Along the main street, many of the shops were busy with customers who dropped in to check out or even taste some of the specials for the community event.

Near the village office there is a sound system set up in a car that was playing a steady stream of Christmas music. However across the road, a section of the street had been closed off for a classic street hockey game. It was the members of the Miniota-Elkhorn C-Hawks

taking on all challengers. In this case most of the opposing team was made up of boys and girls between the ages of 9-12.

I move on up the street with my boots making new tracks in the fresh fallen snow. The Elks Hall was filled with a large crowd of younger children and a few parents who were enjoying the free children's movie. They also enjoyed the free, fresh-made popcorn and soft drinks, just like a real movie theater! The air is full of excitement and noise not only for the Disney movie, but knowing that at the end of the movie that a special early Christmas visitor will be dropping by!

The Lion King is back on the rocky throne and he lives happily ever after. When the lights are turned on the doors at the back of the hall swing open and in walks Santa Claus, to the utter pandemonium of the children, who quickly sur-

round him with hugs and questions!

Santa makes his way to the front of the hall where he sits down and tells the very excited children that he is glad to see them all, and he asks if they would like to come up one at a time and tell him their Christmas wishes!

As the children come by one at a time, some are overcome by Santa's presence and become tongue-tied! However there are others who are ready with a long list of gift ideas!

As each child is finished, Santa's helpers pass out a bag full of Christmas treats. The joy and excitement shown by the children is a powerful reminder of the magic of Christmas for all ages.

Just before dusk, members of the Elkhorn and Area Foundation group are busy down at the community memory wall preparing hot dogs, hot chocolate and putting out

lots of fresh baked cookies and treats for the light-up of the Seasonal Memory Tree. A blazing bonfire has been lit nearby for people to stand around and warm up and to visit with a cup of hot chocolate. The crowd grows and children play in the fresh fallen snow.

A choir leads in the singing of some traditional Christmas carols and the crowd moves closer. The head of the Area Foundation, Brenda Orr, welcomes everyone and thanks them for the support of everyone in the area who has made the Foundation a force that has improved the quality of life in the village and

surrounding area. She then took a few minutes to read a poem about why the lights of the memory tree are so important to many this time of the year. With that, the lights were turned on

and they will burn bright throughout the Christmas season. People came up to look for the names of loved ones on the white board beside the tree.

Continued on page 24

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Positive news for Canadian meat exports

Chinese beef imports have been growing rapidly over the past several years, and with the African Swine Fever outbreak, China had become a red hot meat export market before imposing restrictions on Canadian exports.

China consumes almost half of the pork in the world, and is also the largest beef importer in the world.

According to the USDA Foreign Ag Services, Chinese beef imports in 2015 were 663,000 tonnes, and in 2019 are projected to be up to 2.4 million tonnes, with a further 20% increase in 2020 to 2.9 million tonnes.

Canadian beef markets benefit through increasing exports to China and through higher global beef prices as beef from around the world flows into China.

Canada was exporting beef to China until the end of June, and at that time Canadian beef exports to China were up 300% in volume and 272% in value compared to the first six months of 2018.

The value of Chinese exports accounted for 6.1% of total Canadian exports in the first half of this year. China was Canada's third largest export destination.

Given the size of the Chinese market, Canadian packers should be willing to step back into the market, which appears to be the case as premiums for Ractopamine free cattle are being reported.

In addition to the opportunities in China, Canadian beef trade has been performing well this year.

At the end of September, total beef exports were up 12% in volume and 21% in value compared to last year, and volume was up 17%



Beef exports strong

Total beef exports from Canada were up 12 per cent by volume and 21 per cent by value up to the end of September, according to Canfax.

from 2017.

This was the seventh consecutive year of higher beef exports. Exports to the US were up almost 8% in volume and 16% in value compared to last year, and accounted for 72% of all exports.

Canada's second largest export market is Japan, with exports up 59% in volume and 67% in value.

Exports to Japan have accounted for 11% of total beef exports this year.

After China's closure, Mexico is Canada's third largest market with exports up 7% in volume and 19% in value.

South Korea is a smaller export destination for Canadian beef, accounting for just over one percent of our exports, but it has seen tremendous growth with the value of exports increasing 68% this year.

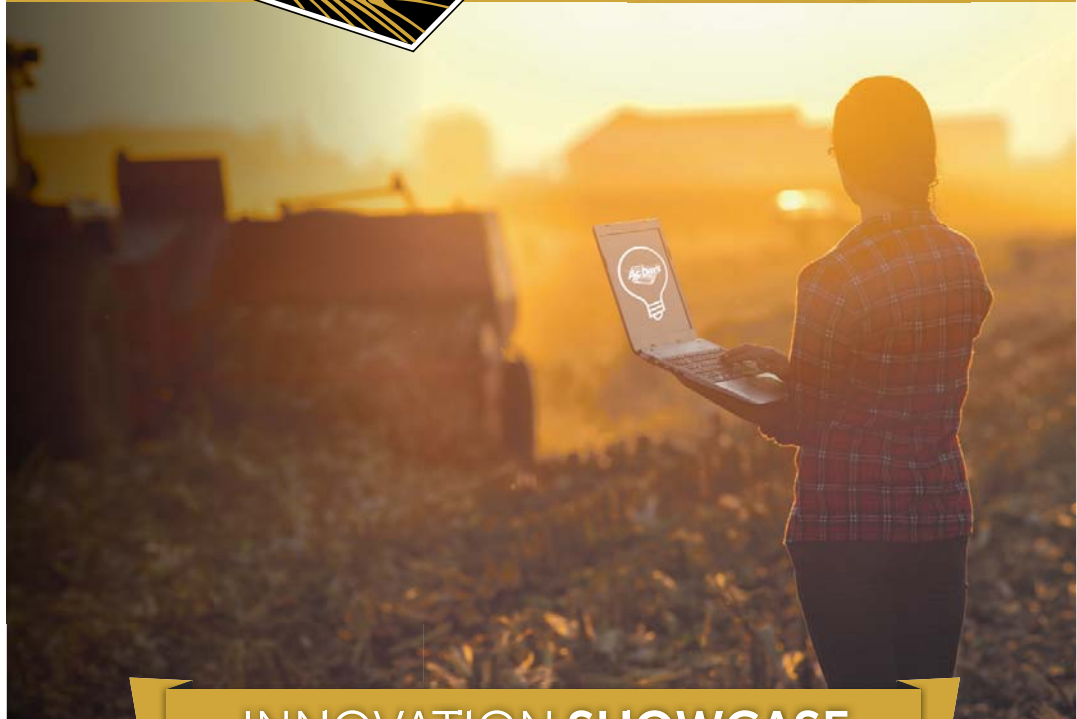
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Lonely and hungry: the vital role of food banks

We're reminded every year how many Canadians are left behind in our society, without enough food. Hunger Count 2019 has just been released.

The report says that despite a strong economy and living in one of the richest countries in the world, many Canadians still don't have enough food.

The report says food banks have been visited 1.084 million times in the last year and 34.1 per cent of those visits were by children. These figures are roughly the same as last year but much lower than 2010, which was a record year. And single-parent household visits are down significantly.

Not having a recession in over a decade will do that to food bank data, but more needs to be done.

Almost half of the people visiting food banks live alone. The single-household economy is clearly not doing so well. It shows the range of benefits provided to people who live alone is limited. In addition, most food bank users this year have some income, including those with student loans or those receiving a pension.

While food bank usage rates have declined in many parts of the country, Ontario, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland and Labrador report higher rates.

While food banks are a safe place, people don't go to them because they want to. Unforeseen life circumstances force them to seek help. Almost 30 per cent of food bank users are either experiencing wage payment delays or have been laid off.

As well, family breakups, natural disasters, unexpected expenses or a sudden health crisis will often compel many to visit food banks. No government programs can provide immediate support.

This Hunger Count reminds us that the food bank network in Canada has matured into a solid social safety net for those in need, whatever their reasons.

The quality of food has improved—it's no longer just



Sylvain Charlebois

canned goods or boxed macaroni and cheese. In many outlets, fresh produce and meat are offered regularly. Some food banks train clients how to cook, so they can prepare food at home and become more kitchen savvy. And cooking skills are the best tool to make food more affordable for a household.

Food banks continuously reinvent themselves. Beyond providing food, they help clients with income tax returns, offer referrals, and offer employment help, such as training and helping people find jobs.

Their game is no longer about supplying calories but rather about nurturing the human spirit, the whole person.

Food banks are safe harbours for the hungry and they've come a long way over the last few years. They went from being warehouses filled with people sorting food with the intent of supplying basic nutrition, to becoming sophisticated soul-centred networks wanting to focus on sustainable solutions for the community.

The reality, though, is that the average Canadian family of four spent \$450 more on food in the last year in order to eat well. Vegetable prices are up 17 per cent from last year. Price fluctuations for many food categories are cruelly unpredictable. Financial pressures on many households are mounting, which is why food banks are more relevant than ever.

But food banks need help.

In June, the federal government, through its new food

policy, recognized food banks for the very first time, providing some well-needed support by way of funding refrigerators and freezers. That was a huge win.

But the need for a basic income for all Canadians remains. To help children and people who live alone, welfare and pension incomes aren't nearly enough.

The federal government, not provinces, should launch pilot projects, accumulate data across the country and evaluate how basic income programs can be implemented throughout Canada.

Northern communities, often forgotten, would gain immensely from a basic income program. Given what's happening with the job market, the arrival of robotics and the use of artificial intelligence, basic income programs are inevitable.

According to Statistics Canada, four million Canadians live alone. That number has doubled in the past 35 years and could increase to over five million by 2025. Many of these people could become financially vulnerable. As we look at food security, this is something we need to consider.

Hunger is invisible and the hungry rarely ask for help. And since hunger nurtures violence, hatred and fanaticism, we need reliable, effective social safety nets beyond what we currently have.

Food banks are at the forefront of our understanding of how to engage the vulnerable in our society, the ones who don't want to be judged.

Food banks are brokers between those who need help and those who want to help them. It's incredible and it works. We should be thankful for their work, as they perform small miracles daily.

Dr. Sylvain Charlebois is senior director of the agri-food analytics lab and a professor in food distribution and policy at Dalhousie University, and a senior fellow with the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies.

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- Tenders must be accompanied by a \$2,500.00 deposit cheque payable to Meighen, Haddad LLP. Deposits accompanying unacceptable bids will be refunded.
- Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE

- The bidder whose tender is accepted will be required to complete an agreement covering terms and conditions of sale.
- The closing date of the sale shall be March 2, 2020 on which date the Vendors shall provide a registerable Transfer of title to the Purchaser and the Purchaser shall pay the balance of the accepted tender.
- Possession is not authorized until acceptable arrangements for full payment are made following acceptance of tender.
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Rocanville groups donate to MDHCF

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

The Rocanville Community Thrift Store and Moosomin Legion have both donated to the Moosomin and District Health Care Foundation.

The Rocanville Community Thrift Store donated \$10,000. The funds will be used for iPads for long term care residents to use, an electronic entrance resident directory, and for Acute Care, a vital signs machine.

The Rocanville branch of the Royal Canadian Legion donated \$2,051 from their poppy fund to purchase several items for long-term care.

Community Thrift Store

Wendy Lynd of the Health Care Foundation said the \$10,000 donation will allow the purchase of several important items for the Southeast Integrated Care Centre.

"For the acute care, this donation will purchase a vitals machine, which tests all your vital signs, so it's a very important machine to have," she said. "Everyone in acute care is excited about having that machine."

"For long-term care this will allow the purchase of two iPads for residents to talk to family and friends. For the front door, it will also cover the cost of an electronic resident directory so people will be able to see who's in Poppy, or any of the other houses, because right now you walk in and you don't know where to go."

The thrift store has donated to STARS, to the local hall, to Rocanville's medical centre, and to all sorts of worthy causes in Rocanville, Moosomin, Welwyn, Wapella, Esterhazy and Langenburg.

Each year for the last five years the Thrift Store has donated \$10,000 to health care, which has gone to the Children's Hospital, STARS, and the Southeast Integrated Care Centre.

The Rocanville Community Thrift Store operates with the help of about 65 volunteers, which allows all the money raised to go back to the community.

And the amount the Thrift Store has raised is amazing.

Irene Norton says the total taken in by the thrift store came to \$881,000 by the end of 2018, and she expects it will be around \$950,000 by the end of this year. "Maybe next year we'll hit one million," says Norton.

The volunteers are vital to the operation of the Thrift Store. "We have people who take bags to our sea-can, our overflow. We have one man who cuts our rags. We have some people who work during the day so they come and volunteer on Thursday nights when we are open. When you took the picture, that was our clean-up day, and we had 13 volunteers that day. Nobody gets paid—we're all volunteers, and that helps. We're all getting older, but we have some young people stepping up to help."

"We get so many donations, and people come to shop



Donation from Thrift Store

The Rocanville Community Thrift Store presented a donation of \$10,000 to the Moosomin and District Health Care Foundation last week. In back, from left, are Vivian Sveinbjornson, Laurie Surrridge, Linda Pronshyn, Colleen Cousins, Joyce Surrridge, Jean Howie, Denise Callin, Rocanville Mayor Daryl Fingas, and Kim Surrridge.

In front are Wendy Lynd of the Health Care Foundation, Willa Clarke, Reva Zaitsoff, Penny Yung, Anne Knight, and Linda Bock.

all the time from Broadview, Whitewood, Virden, Moosomin of course, and as far as Yorkton. We're happy with how it's going. We try to keep our prices down. We sell our stuff very, very reasonably."

In addition to organizations, the Community Thrift Store helps individuals in many cases.

"If there's a fire, we always make a donation," says Norton. "If there's one of those fundraisers for someone in need, we try to make a donation, if someone has cancer, we make a donation. We try to help out any way we can."

Why did they decide to make the latest donation to the Moosomin and District Health Care Foundation?

"We have given to them in the past and they were so grateful," says Norton. "We always give a \$10,000 donation to health every year, be it the children's hospital, STARS, or the Moosomin Hospital because people here use the hospital. We thought this would be a good cause to support this year."

Rocanville Legion Branch

The Royal Canadian Legion Rocanville Branch #20 donated \$2,051 from their Poppy Fund for Long Term Care.

The funds are for two Spenco mattresses, full body sheepskin, two call cords for residents to use and two fleece bed rail protectors.

Allan Yung of the Rocanville Legion said the group is happy to help out the Southeast Integrated Care Centre, where veterans and veterans' spouses have been cared for over the years.

"This donation is about the Legion's responsibility for veterans and their families," he said. "This was earmarked for the spouses and veterans that are living in

the care home. Our other mandate as a Legion is to show support for the schools, through the poster program, with bursaries. Those are our two big mandates."

The donation last week was raised through the poppy campaign. "The funds from the poppy campaign are specifically for helping veterans and their families and work with the schools, but we have a separate fundraiser, providing food at one of the markets at the museum. We use that for local needs. Recently we didn't get provincial approval to replace the computer system at our medical clinic in Rocanville, because it's not considered to be a medical appliance, and we were able to fund that cost of over \$1,400 through the Legion because we had some funds in our general account that we had raised locally."

Rocanville's Legion has a solid core of members and sees a good turnout from the community for events like the Remembrance Day service.

"We've actually had better turnouts these last few years than we had before," Allan Yung said.

"We had a full church for Remembrance Day this year," Penny Yung added. "We have lots of younger families coming out and bringing their families."

"It's wonderful to see people with small children at these," says Allan. "Our town and RM continue to host the lunch after that service. They have always been very supportive. If we go back in history after World War I—the Great War of course it was called then—the RM of Rocanville provided engraved medals to every returning soldier. There were 22 from the Rocanville area that did not get to come home from that war."

"Then, after World War II the Rocanville community put on an event, and those returning men and women received signet rings that were engraved, so the RM and the towns have always shown a lot of support for veterans, right from the inception."

Continued on page 23

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Rocanville groups donate to MDHCF



Continued from page 22

The Rocanville branch of the Royal Canadian Legion has a long history.

"This is our 100th anniversary," said Allan Yung. "We have a lot of our memorabilia on display in the Rocanville Museum. One of the most fantastic pieces of memorabilia we have is the founding documentation of the local branch of the British Empire Services League, which was one of a number of veterans orga-

nizations after World War I that amalgamated and grew into what we now know as the Legion."

Yung said he believes the Legion is fulfilling an important role in Rocanville.

"I think we're trying to do what we should do," he said. "We're not trying to glorify past wars in any way, but to honor the sacrifices that these folks made for our country so that we can be the country that we are."

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Donation from Rocanville Legion

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 20, Rocanville, presented more than \$2,000 to the Moosomin and District Health Care Foundation, funds that were raised through the annual poppy campaign. From left are Membership Chair Penny Yung, Secretary Brenda Hancock, Poppy Fund Co-chair Rick Hancock, and President Allan Yung of the Rocanville Legion, Rocanville Mayor Daryl Fingas who sits on the Health Care Foundation, Poppy Chair Mel Strong of the Rocanville Legion, and Wendy Lynd of the Moosomin and District Health Care Foundation.

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Light-up night kicks off Christmas in Elkhorn

Continued from page 19

There was a short break before the Christmas parade began, with the adults huddling together to keep warm and the children playing in the piles of new snow. And just like that, here comes the parade! The lead vehicle is the RCMP cruiser, which will be very busy the next few weeks keeping our roads safe from drunk drivers. Along comes a parade of brightly colored floats of local businesses, service clubs and the volunteer firefighters. As in most small community parades, lots of free candy was thrown out to the children watching the colourful vehicles going by. However it was the float with Santa on it that got the loudest cheers!

Because it was Saturday night, it was time for the weekly Chase The Ace event at the community hotel, followed by the one-man music talents of Lyle Baldwin, who was a great success at the Elkhorn Western Weekend this past August.

The whole day was a positive experience for all who chose to take part, and as mentioned earlier, there was something for all ages and interests. The Chamber of Commerce and the other groups involved in the events were happy with the turnout for this special community event.

Merry Christmas and the best in the New Year to everyone!



Some of the many colorful tables of Christmas arts and crafts, home-made baking and candy at the Elkhorn Legion as part of the village annual village Christmas light-up event.



Above, Kristina Walker, and her chili contest entry being tried out at the Elkhorn Leisure Centre.

Left, Santa in the light-up parade with some of his helpers.

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December oil and gas public offering brings 2019 calendar year total to \$25 million

Saskatchewan's December oil and gas public offering held on Dec. 3 generated \$3.4 million in revenue for the province. This brings the 2019-20 fiscal year total to \$15.2 million with one sale remaining, and brings the final 2019 calendar year total to \$25.4 million.

The Estevan area accounted for \$1,462,673.69 for 24 leases totalling 3,014,559 hectares, while the Kindersley area received \$1,346,468.25 for 21 leases and one exploration licence totalling 5,037,032 hectares. One lease in the Estevan area consisting of 72,549 hectares received the highest dollars per hectare offer in this offering at \$3,889.19/hectare.

Cougar Creek Land Ltd. was the suc-

cessful bidder on this parcel, which is situated east of Carnduff and is prospective for oil in the Frobisher Beds of the Madison Group.

The highest bonus bid received in this offering was \$485,900.03 for a 1,558.121 hectare exploration licence west of Kerrobert. This parcel was purchased by Novus Energy Inc. and is prospective for oil in the Viking Formation and the Mannville Group.

A recent report on profitability in the oil sector, the 2019 Scotiabank Playbook, ranked Saskatchewan as having two of the top 10 oil or gas plays in North America and a total of seven plays ranked among those in the top 35.

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Left: Santa, played by Greg Kirk, and all his elves at the North Pole.

Below: Buddy, played by Joey Simms, calls a department store Santa a "fake."

ELF THE MUSICAL

Virden Theatre Productions performed Elf The Musical at the Virden Auditorium Theatre from Nov. 20-24. The antics of Buddy the Elf and the rest of the cast had the crowd laughing out loud for most of the performance. Fantastic costumes, sets and dance moves all made the performance a ton of fun.

Below: Buddy and a bunch of dancing Santas performing "Nobody Cares About Santa."

Right: Buddy, sampling some fruit body spray in an unconventional way.

Kim Poole photos



The "Get Your Elf On" committee wishes to thank the following for their support of another successful event. Proceeds will go to helping offset the production costs of Elf the Musical and to future productions of Virden Theatre Productions.

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ECONOMIC BENEFITS HIGHLIGHTS: SASKATCHEWAN

Enbridge's presence in the community fuels quality of life through ongoing tax revenue. This revenue can be used for schools, infrastructure (roads and bridges), health and wellness, recreation, transportation and other services that help strengthen the fabric of the community.

Economic modelling suggests that Enbridge's Line 3 Replacement Program will:

- Contribute \$1.065 billion to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Saskatchewan, and \$2.873 billion to the GDP of Canada, through the project's design and construction phases.
- Generate \$183.9 million for the province of Saskatchewan, and \$514.3 million for Canada, in tax revenue during the project's construction phase.

These figures include federal and provincial goods and service taxes, federal income taxes, and excise taxes.



Tie-in at Cromer

Night shift at the Cromer Terminal, where one of the final tie-ins took place.

Canada-US connection point

The Enbridge pipeline maintenance crew at the Gretna Terminal standing by the final tie-in point of the Line 3 replacement pipeline in Canada. The large flange in the centre of the photos is the connecting point between the new Canadian pipeline and U.S. Line 3, which runs to Superior, Wisconsin.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS HIGHLIGHTS: MANITOBA

Enbridge's presence in the community fuels quality of life through ongoing tax revenue. This revenue can be used for schools, infrastructure (roads and bridges), health and wellness, recreation, transportation and other services that help strengthen the fabric of the community.

Economic modelling suggests that Enbridge's Line 3 Replacement Program will:

- Contribute \$391.9 million to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Manitoba, and \$2.873 billion to the GDP of Canada, through the project's design and construction phases.
- Generate \$108.2 million for the province of Manitoba, and \$514.3 million for Canada, in tax revenue during the project's construction phase.

These figures include federal and provincial goods and service taxes, federal income taxes, and excise taxes.

Line 3 replacement now in service

100 km of right-of-way work near Moosomin will be finished next year

It takes a community to build a pipeline. Landowners, municipalities, First Nations and Métis people, regulators, elected officials, construction contractors, unions and chambers of commerce, goods and services providers, customers seeking to ship their products to market safely and reliably – it's taken support from all of these groups to get the Enbridge Line 3 replacement pipeline (L3RP) built in Canada.

So says Leo Golden, Vice President, Line 3 Project Execution, as the new, 36-inch-diameter, Canadian-made pipeline is being put into service for the first time in December.

"We are truly grateful and humbled by the tremendous support we've received across Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba for this project over these past six years," says Golden. "Without that support and collaborative mindset, we wouldn't be where we are today."

The new pipeline will run at approximately half of its rated capacity, some 400,000 barrels per day, until such time as the Minnesota portion receives final approval, is constructed and brought onstream.

"First and foremost, the Line 3 project was about enhancing the safety and integrity of infrastructure that is critical to the functioning of our society, much like a highway, a bridge, or an airport," Golden says. "Today, Line 3 is one of more than 80 oil and gas pipelines and 30 major electric transmission lines that cross the Canada-U.S. border, operating as part of a single, integrated North American energy market. Access to this continental energy market is critical for consumers, industry, and governments."

The new pipeline stretches approximately 1,070 kilometres (665 miles) from Hardisty, Alberta to Gretna, Manitoba. At an estimated cost of \$5.3 billion, it represents the largest capital expenditure – and the largest and most successful stakeholder engagement undertaking – in Enbridge's 70-year history in western Canada.

First announced in July 2013, Enbridge has since recorded more than 30,000 engagement activities with interested parties, including thousands of in-person meet-

ings, presentations, coffee talks, group workshops, open houses and trade shows. In addition, project land agents have thus far conducted more than 31,000 landowner outreaches, garnering the support of all 1,087 right-of-way landowners along with 4,000 outreaches to 41 rural municipalities.

"We've worked very hard to listen and identify issues of concern," Golden says. "Most importantly, we made meaningful changes to address those issues. The input we've received has truly helped make the L3RP better."

One of the key components in earning support for any large industrial project in Canada today, he says, is seeking the active inclusion and participation of Indigenous communities. Recognizing this reality at the outset of the L3RP led to Indigenous labor and contracting spending in excess of \$450 million.

"Businesses have a big role to play along the path to reconciliation and this includes an obligation to provide economic opportunities to Indigenous communities associated with Enbridge's projects and activities," says Golden. "Large projects like Line 3 are one way we can help lift Indigenous communities from poverty and toward future prosperity."

"When Indigenous communities benefit, we all do as Canadians."

Among other highlights of this progressive approach, Enbridge:

- Ensured more than 300 contractors received cultural awareness training before setting foot on the project right-of-way;
- Secured cooperative agreements with almost 100 Indigenous communities or groups with provisions for Traditional Land Use, procurement, training and employment, environmental stewardship and construction monitoring;
- Trained over 300 men and women in the basic skills of pipelining, heavy equipment operation and pipeline inspection;
- Employed more than 1,100 Indigenous men and women, representing about 20% of the construction

workforce and a total of 141 communities; and, Paid wages of more than \$120 million to Indigenous workers, supporting themselves, their families, and their communities.

Another defining characteristic of the L3RP was the focus on project community investment, which saw donations totaling some \$3 million to support more than 400 community driven projects including celebrations/cultural events, building improvements, parks and playgrounds, environment and safety initiatives, emergency response equipment upgrades, and investments related to education, special projects and social issues.

These project funds are part of Enbridge's ongoing community investment program, which in 2018 distributed more than \$22.5 million to more than 3,450 organizations across North America.

Meanwhile, as the new pipeline begins to ship oil for its customers, final reclamation of the remaining 100 km of the construction area, in southeast Saskatchewan, will have to wait until the spring of 2020 due to inclement fall weather.

"Our objective, as always, is to restore the land to as good or better condition as prior to construction," says Al Sawatzky, Line 3 Construction Manager.

Steven Bonk, MLA for Moosomin Constituency

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